



CALIFORNIA HEALTHY PETS ACT
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Nine Reasons Why California Needs the Healthy Pets Act

1. **Taxpayers are paying \$250 million every year to shelter and euthanize pets and every year we pay more.** With the availability of free and low-cost spay/neuter services, there's no reason why taxpayers should bear this huge burden.
2. **It's an urgent problem when over 400,000 cats and dogs are euthanized every year.** California's shelters are overflowing with abandoned pets and over 400,000 cats and dogs are euthanized every year. When you consider the shelters not required to report, such as SPCA shelters, the true number is most likely much higher.
3. **Mandatory spay/neuter laws are a common sense solution with a record of success.** Spay/neuter laws are on the books and working in nine jurisdictions in California, including San Mateo, Lake, Santa Cruz and Stanislaus Counties and the cities of San Bernardino and Sacramento. Rhode Island passed a law in 2006 that is widely considered a success and shelter populations in Santa Cruz County dropped by 50% after a mandatory spay/neuter law was adopted.
4. **Abandoned and aggressive dogs endanger our neighborhoods.** California has more dog bite injuries than any other state - and that's just the dog bites reported to authorities or health care professionals. Unaltered dogs are three times as likely to attack and a majority of dog bite victims are children.
5. **Free and low cost spay/neuter services are widely available.** Cities and counties throughout the state offer free or low-cost spay and neuter services. In addition, local nonprofit organizations such as the Humane Society often provide free spaying and neutering. In most counties, these clinics are underutilized.
6. **Voluntary spay/neuter programs aren't working.** Voluntary spay/neuter policies and extensive public education programs aren't working. Despite the broad availability of free and low cost spay/neuter services, over 800,000 unwanted dogs and cats end up at shelters in California every year.
7. **Pets that have been spayed or neutered are healthier.** Studies by the American Veterinary Medical Association show that spayed or neutered pets develop fewer health problems, including less risk of cancer, tumors, cysts and infections. Spayed or neutered pets also live longer, healthier lives.
8. **Overcrowded shelters make it difficult to recruit trained and caring workers.** Turnover of shelter workers is high. Some cities and counties cannot fill positions for veterinarians and other workers because of crowded shelter conditions and the emotional toll from the deaths of a high percentage of sheltered animals.
9. **It's the right thing to do.** Spay/neuter laws are the humane solution to the booming population in our shelters. Bringing kittens and puppies into the world, only to abandon them to shelters and then death, just isn't right.